Introduction of Agriculture Credit Card Scheme in Uttar Pradesh

*87. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some public sector banks have introduced an Agriculture Credit Scheme in Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the named of the districts selected under this scheme;

(c) whether Government propose to implement this scheme in all the districts of the State; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) to (d) Presumably the Hon'ble Member is referring to Agriculture Credit Card Scheme of the public sector banks. Such Schemes have been introduced by banks in selected districts of a number of States. These cards are given to farmers who have a good track record to enable them to get agricultural credit without difficulty and to meet their cost of production inputs. The Government of India had suggested to the public sector banks in April, 1988 to consider launching of the Credit Card Scheme for farmers and the banks have been taking steps in that direction. As reported by the Reserve Bank of India and the public sector banks, in the State of Uttar Pradesh, State Bank of India Canara Bank, Punjab National Bank, Central Bank of India, Union Bank of India, United Bank of India, Dena Bank, Allahabad Bank, Syndicate Bank, UCO Bank, and Bank of India have introduced Agriculture Credit Cards in selected districts where they have semi-urban and rural branches of their banks. The information about the branches of the banks implementing the above scheme in Uttar Pradesh and the districts in which they are located is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Postal facility in the villages of M.P.

*88. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of villages in the State of Madhya Pradesh which are without Post Offices or even without letter boxes at present; and

(b) by when Government propose to open post offices in all the villages in Madhya Pradesh having population of more than one thousand and provide letter boxes in all the villages of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) Post Offices in the rural areas are opened keeping in view the population, income and distance norms prescribed for the purpose. As far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned there are 62,047 villages without post offices. Of these, 23, 389 villages are provided with letter boxes and remaining 38658 are without . Efforts are being made to provide Letter-boxes in maximum number of villages. In the first phase, villages with population of 1000 and above will be provided with letter-boxes progressively and in the next phase, other villages with population of 500 and above and those below 500 but having no letter box within a distance of 1 km. will be provided with letter boxes progressively. As far as opening of post offices in villages with population of 1000 and above is concerned, there is no such proposal, as opening of post offices is based on certain norms. It may, however, be stated that as per 1981 Census the average population served per post office in Madhya Pradesh is 4,753 as against the All India average of 4,607.

Provision of Instrument Landing System at all airports in the country

*89. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what would be the cost of providing Instrument Landing System at all airports in the country;

(b) whether Government propose to provide ILS at all the airports; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA): (a) Estimated cost of providing Instrument Landing System at remaining 65 airports with National Airports Authority, excluding civil enclaves where the responsibility is of Defence, would be Rs. 130 crores.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Whether *visibility condition*, type of terrain around the airport, type of aircraft operation are the factors that determine the requirement of ILS at an airport. Conditions prevalent at majority of the airports do not warrant provision of an Instrument Landing System. There is no need to provide Instrument Landing System at all the airports.

Multi funds in private and joint sectors

*90. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been a mushroom growth of mutual funds in the private and joint sectors;

(b) if so, what precautions have been taken by Government to see that these funds are not used for laundering of black money; and

(c) what check or monitoring is being exercised the proper utilisation of funds invested in these mutual funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) At present, all mutual funds functioning in the country are in the public sector. Therefore, it is not correct to say that there has been a mushroom growth of mutual funds in the private and joint sectors. In view of the growing importance of mutual funds and the decision to allow mutual funds to be set up in the joint and private sectors, this Ministry has recently issued a comprehensive set of prudential guidelines for the development and regulation of mutual funds and for ensuring investor protection. These guidelines are applicable to all mutual funds which invest primarily in the capital market and also partly in money market instruments subject to certain conditions. The guidelines cover, *inter-alia*, the establishment of mutual funds, restrictions on business activities, Trustees and Trust Companies, schemes for mutual funds and investment limitations account in requirements and disclosures and reporting. All mutual funds shall require authorisation for business by the Securities and Exchange Board of India.

Promotion of bio-gas plants and smokeless Lchulahs in the country

*91. SHRI RAM NARESH YADAV: Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of family size bio-gas plants set up and also the number of improved and smokeless chulahs installed in the country, so far;

(b) what has been their impact on saving fuel and wood for the users; and

(c) what incentives Government propose to give for the development of this source of energy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) A total of over 14.9 lakh family size biogas plants and 113 lakh improved chulhas have been installed so far in the country under the Centrally sponsored programmes.

(b) A family size biogas plant and an Improved Chulha are estimated to save about 4 and 0.7 tonnes of firewood per year, respectively, for the users.

(c) The Government is continuing implementation of National Project on Biogas Development and National Programme on Improved Chulhas, which provide various kinds of incentives such as central subsidy, training programmes, involvement of self-employed workers and